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If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at [jim@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:jim@calvaryroswell.com) or [phil@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:phil@calvaryroswell.com)

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## Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”  
Ecclesiastes 12:13

### Ecclesiastes 7-12

November 1st-7th, 2007

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

## **Ecclesiastes—**

Upon first glance or after simply skimming over this inspired book of eternal philosophy, one might be inclined to think of it as morbid or pessimistic. But upon deeper study and contemplation, this portion of Scripture leads us to see that, with God, *life on earth has meaning!*

As you study these chapters, note how they point to Christ. See Solomon's quests for knowledge and wisdom lead back to our King Jesus. See the end of man unfold into the deeper truth that is—a life worth living is one lived in the fear of the Lord. Search your heart as you ponder these truths and be liberated by the power of Christ to enjoy all that God has given you, while living life fully for Him and with Him!

“In the light of the NT, Ecclesiastes is not a “pessimistic” book that denies the joys of life, Rather, it proves that though there are many mysteries in life we cannot explain, we can live so as to enjoy God’s blessings and glorify God’s name.”

—Wiersbe, Warren W.

*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the Old Testament.*

### **Helpful Study Links:**

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)

[http://preceptaustin.org/ecclesiastes\\_commentaries.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/ecclesiastes_commentaries.htm)

### **Sermon Links:**

“Ecclesiastes 7-12” by Chuck Smith

[http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/chuck\\_smith\\_c2000/Ecc/Ecc007.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/chuck_smith_c2000/Ecc/Ecc007.html)

“Five Fears” by C H Spurgeon

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0148.htm>

“How, Then, should we live?” by Ray C. Stedman

<http://raystedman.org/eccles/3815.html>

# **Ecclesiastes 7-12**

## **Outline**

- I. Coping in a Vain World 7:1–9:18**
  - A. Wisdom and Folly Contrasted 7:1–14
  - B. Wisdom of Moderation 7:15–18
  - C. Strength of Wisdom 7:19–29
  - D. Submit to Authority 8:1–9
  - E. Inability to Understand All God’s Doing 8:10–17
  - F. Judgment Comes to All Men 9:1–6
  - G. Enjoy Life While You Have It 9:7–12
  - H. Value of Wisdom 9:13–18
- II. Counsel for the Uncertainties of Life 10:1–12:8**
  - A. Wisdom’s Characteristics 10:1–15
  - B. Wisdom Related to the King 10:16–20
  - C. Wisdom Related to Business 11:1–6
  - D. Wisdom Related to the Youth 11:7–12:8
- III. Conclusion: God is man’s all - 12:9–14**
  - “Fear God and Keep His Commandments”







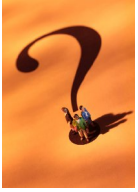








## Keys in understanding this book



In this book, Solomon seeks to answer the question, “Is life worth living?” First, he states the problem and argues for the negative (chaps. 1–2). Then he examines the problem from many different angles (chaps. 3–10) and argues for the positive. He concludes that life is worth living if you put God first and obey His Word (chaps. 11–12).



Called a pessimistic book, Ecclesiastes is actually realistic. Solomon looked at life and death, success and failure, time and events, and wrote some wise counsel about how to live a meaningful life in a world of contradictions and seeming futility. When viewed apart from God (“under the sun”), life is indeed “vanity” (futility); but when you live for Christ, life is never “in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).



Six times Solomon advises us to enjoy life now and be grateful for God’s gifts (2:24; 3:12–15, 22; 5:18–20; 8:15; 9:7–10; 11:9–10). This is not the pleasure-seeking philosophy of the epicurean (“eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die”) but the joyful outlook of the believer who accepts life as God’s gift to enjoy and employ for His glory (1 Tim. 6:17–19)



The key word is “vanity,” which expresses the futile attempt to be satisfied apart from God. This word is used 37 times expressing the many things hard to understand about life. All earthly goals and ambitions when pursued as ends in themselves produce only emptiness. Paul was probably echoing Solomon’s dissatisfaction when he wrote, “... the creation was subjected to futility” (Solomon’s “vanity”; Rom. 8:19–21). Solomon’s experience with the effects of the curse (see Gen. 3:17–19) led him to view life as “chasing after the wind.”

**By the sadness of the countenance**  
**the heart is made glad.**

- Ecclesiastes 7:3

F B Meyer - *Our Daily Homily*

Who does not know that our most sorrowful days have been amongst our best? When the face is wreathed with smiles, and we trip lightly over meadows bespangled with spring flowers, our heart is often running to waste. The soul which is always blithe and gay misses the deepest life. It has its reward, and it is satisfied to its measure, though that measure is a very scanty one. But the heart is dwarfed, and the nature, which is capable of the highest heights, the deepest depths, is undeveloped; and life presently burns down to its socket without having known the resonance of the deepest chords of joy. "Blessed are they that mourn."

Stars shine brightest in the long dark nights of winter. The gentians show their fairest bloom amidst almost inaccessible heights of snow and ice. God's promises seem to wait for the pressure of pain to trample out their richest juice as in a wine-press. Sorrow brings us nearest to the Man of Sorrows, and is the surest passport to his loving sympathy. Only those who have sorrowed know how tender his comfort can be. It is only as the door shuts upon the joys of the earth that the window is opened to the blessedness of the unseen and eternal. Let sadness cover your face, Jesus will enter the heart, and make it glad, for the days in which you have been afflicted, and the years in which you have seen evil.

Is your face sad? Are you passing through bitter and trying experiences? Be of good cheer. Out of the sorrows that make the face sad will come ultimate joy. This affliction is working out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. And the day is not distant when God will wipe tears from off all faces.

**If one do not whet the edge,  
then must be put to more strength.**

- Ecclesiastes 10:10

F B Meyer - Our Daily Homily

If this is true, as we know it is, may we not often use it as an appeal to God? There are times with all who work for God, when they are blunt, through much usage. The brain is blunt, and cannot think. The heart is blunt, and cannot feel. The voice is blunt, and has lost its ringing note. How often the evangelist, towards the end of a series of services, feels blunt! Sometimes also there are private sorrows, of which we cannot speak, which take off the edge. At all such times let us turn to God and say, "Put in more strength. Let thy power be magnified in my weakness. Give more grace, so that thy work shall not suffer." I suppose Paul meant this when he said that he gloried in infirmities, that the power of Christ might rest upon him. Surely more work is done by a blunt edge and Divine power, than by a sharp edge and little power.

This, however, does not justify us in seeking to be blunt. And when we are conscious that the edge is going off, it becomes us to seek a fresh whetting. The time is not lost in the harvest-field when the reapers whet their scythes with musical tinkle. A day in the country or a week by the seaside are very pleasant whetstones. Solomon says that friendship, the face of a friend, will sharpen a blunt edge; and full often we have been sharpened and quickened by seasons of holy fellowship. But after all, nothing gives us such a keen edge as the devotional perusal of the Divine Word. Let us appropriate the words of the prophet, and each one ask to be made a new sharp threshing-instrument having teeth, that we may thresh the mountains, and make them small, and give our God as little anxiety as possible.